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EMBASSY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Moscow, U.S.S.R.

January 2, 1968

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ORR/CIA

Washington, D.C.

Dear Doug:

Thank you for your letter of November 14, 1967, enclosing items from the Current Intelligence Digest and informing us of your plans to update the present listing of Soviet economists and to identify the positions they have taken on various issues. We recognize that this is a major undertaking and look forward to receiving the final products with great interest.

By the way, we (including the Ambassador) found RR 1R 67-25 on "Soviet Prospects for Trade in Natural Gas with the Free World" to be a particularly well-done and timely piece of work. I hope you can pass this word on to those in OER responsible for the preparation of this fine study. In this connection, we are at something of a loss to interpret the recent spate of TASS claims re increased natural gas "reserves" in the Tyumen area. Are these essentially unsubstantiated claims or has there been some genuine change in the outlook? A reassessment of the USSR's gas reserves could have a significant impact on the Soviet bargaining position in the pipeline negotiations with the Austrians and Italians. Any thoughts, informal or otherwise, which your experts might have on this subject would be most welcome.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Lindstrom  
Counselor of Embassy  
for Economic Affairs

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